THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during the years 2004 to 2008 and January-October 2009 and the growth rate in FTAs over the corresponding period of previous year are given below:-

Year	FTAs (in million)	Growth Rate over previous year
2004	3.46	-
2005	3.92	13.3
2006	4.45	13.5
2007	5.08	14.3
2008 *	5.37	5.6
January-October 2009 *	4.02	-7.0

* Provisional

While the number of FTAs during 2004 to 2008 show an increasing trend, there has been a decline in FTAs during the period January-October 2009. This decline may be due to various reasons including H1N1 pandemic, global slowdown, etc.

Domestic and foreign tourists in India and Rajasthan

1637. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) tourist (domestic/foreign) arrivals during the last three years in India and Rajasthan;

(b) percentage share of Rajasthan thereof;

(c) whether tourist traffic in Rajasthan declined after 13th May, 2008 serial blasts in Jaipur;

(d) whether tourist traffic in India, particularly Maharashtra, declined after 26th November, 2008 attacks in Mumbai;

(e) whether in view of Rajasthan having largest chunk of Thar desert, mountainous sand dunes, which have distinct ecology, flora and fauna, there is great scope for desert tourism (safari, camel ride, adventure tour, etc.); and

(f) if so, whether her Ministry contemplates any scheme for developing a Desert-Circuit in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The number of domestic and foreign tourist visits to Rajasthan and for all India as well as the share of Rajasthan during 2006, 2007 and 2008 are given below:-

	2006	2007	2008
Number of domestic tourist visits in Rajasthan (million)	23.5	25.9	28.4
Number of foreign tourist visits in Rajasthan (million)	1.2	1.4	1.5
Number of domestic tourist visits in India (million)	462.3	526.6	562.9
Number of foreign tourist visits in India (million)	11.7	13.3	14.1
Share of Rajasthan in domestic tourist visits in India	5.1%	4.9%	5.0%
Share of Rajasthan in foreign tourist visits in India	10.4%	10.6%	10.5%

(c) and (d) The growth rate of domestic and foreign tourist visits in 2008 over 2007 for Maharashtra and Rajasthan are given below:-

State	Growth rate (percentage) in 2008 over 2007	
	Domestic Tourist Visits	Foreign Tourist Visits
Maharashtra	6.9	6.4
Rajasthan	9.4	5.5

(e) and (f) Identification and development of tourist spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects under the scheme of 'Product/Infrastructure development of tourism destinations/circuits' on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority. Ministry of Tourism has also identified the desert circuit of Jodhpur- Bikaner- Jaisalmer in Rajasthan for development as a mega tourism project. During 2007-08 and 2008-09, Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 57.44 crore to Rajasthan for development of 10 tourism projects.

National urban transport policy

1638. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on the National Urban Transport Policy with the emphasis on integrating transport modes in the million-plus cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aims and objectives of such policy worked out so far; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the States especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (c) The Government has formulated a National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006 which envisages safe, affordable, quick, comfortable, reliable and sustainable urban transport systems, establishment of quality focused multi-modal public transport systems that are well integrated, providing seamless travel across modes, land use transport integration, introducing intelligent transport systems for traffic management etc.

(d) No funds are earmarked under the National Urban Transport Policy.